

## RTYC - Motorboat & Cruising Group



### **Dartmouth Cruise Report**

**April 26 to 28<sup>th</sup> 2024**

The night before the Dartmouth Cruise saw members in the Club Bar enthusiastically comparing their mobile phone weather apps as the prospect of an Eastly wind with rain conjured up a vision of high seas and wet Oilies beyond Berryhead.

Despite broad intentions to berth in Dartmouth 1400hrs at slack water there was an early start on Friday morning by

Amares, followed by Whisper, Jupiter, and Quintet who were keen to avoid rain and increasing wind strength. The yachts enjoyed a beam reach with 12 to 15 knots from the East. Whilst Whisper conducted a series of “red arrow” like fly-pasts at 29 knots to establish the Rear Commodore for Cruising credentials as a non-sail cloth vessel. It was enough to set of Quintet’s AIS collision alarm !

With Amares and Whisper berthed on the inner Town Quay the third to arrive was Quintet playing at full blast the Royal Naval march “Heart of Oak” to celebrate its sail to Dartmouth averaging 4.7 knots SOG. A new record for the 8.5 net tonnage yacht.

Fourth to arrive was Jupiter and the meticulously planned berthing arrangements started to take shape. Then the clouds started to darken and rain began to set in with a gusty wind. The impact of the changing weather was seen when Mojito and Serena arrived with fully drenched Skippers. Tales of remarkable wave heights on passage told an obviously wet cockpit story.



With 6 boats berthed a hospitality tour of the fleet began. A small gathering onboard Quintet to dry-out grew to a series of cleverly timetabled open offers of nibbles and wine from Whisper, Amares and Jupiter. By the end of the evening everyone was well fed and watered. Some more than others.

Saturday began overcast and most Skippers and Crew decided to stretch their legs ashore with some essential shopping or local walking along the River Dart. Then a Champagne Lunch was provided by the Rear Commodore onboard Whisper highlighting its capability to accommodate a large number of guests onboard.

Then it happened. The sun came out and those on the cruise cheered in response as Whispers unique collapsible roof top was lowered to reveal some warm rays. A sense of togetherness in good company was felt as we sipped and nibbled our lunch.

After a well-deserved siesta the evening started early with a visit to the 1620 Bar for pre-dinner cocktails. Attracted by their special Happy Hour offer the pricing soon made it obvious that this only applied to Sunday, not Saturday. The fingers pointed towards the Skipper of Quintet who had led the idea.

Dinner at the Dartmouth Yacht Club included a private function room with panoramic views over the river as we tucked into a sumptuously fresh seafood platter provided by the next-door restaurant Bushell's. The Commodore of the club checked base with our own Rear Commodore and for the hardier on the cruise, some participated in the Karaoke competition downstairs in the bar between Sailors and a visiting chapter of Motorbiker's. Now there's an event idea for our social committee to consider !

Sunday morning saw a flotilla sail back along the coast to Torquay with a wind just a touch too close on-the-nose to take full advantage of it under sail all the way. But motor-sailing with a fair tidal stream in our favour led to speeds above 6 knots SOG.

This cruise despite the weather created a strong feel-good factor that demonstrated the camaraderie and hospitality was strong enough to overcome this. It was a positive time for on-the-water friendship and flying the flag for the Royal Torbay Yacht Club as having an active and vibrant Motorboat & Cruising Group.

Stay tuned for the cruise video due out next week promoting future social cruising.